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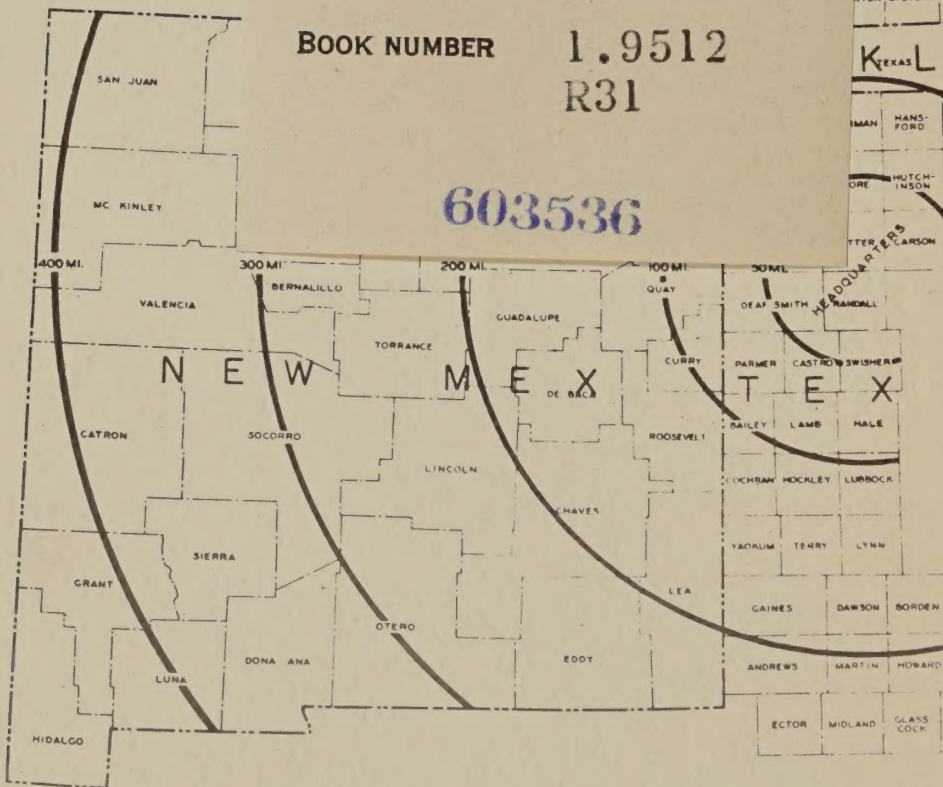
REGION 12

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REGION TWELVE

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NOT UNLIKE JOSEPH'S BROTHERS, THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FARMERS WERE UN-  
PREPARED TO MEET THE LEAN YEARS WHICH SO RECENTLY ENVELOPED THEM. AND UN-  
LIKE THEIR FOREFATHERS, THEY WERE UNABLE TO TURN THEIR FACES TOWARD WESTERN  
HORIZONS IN SEARCH OF NEW FRONTIERS. BUT A MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE WERE  
NOT TO BLAME FOR THEIR PLIGHT WHEN DISASTER IN THE FORM OF CLOSED MARKETS,  
LOW PRICES, DROUTHS, AND CROP FAILURES CAME UPON THEM. SOME WERE LOCATED  
ON LANDS WHERE THEY COULD HARDLY EXPECT TO MAKE A LIVING EVEN IN THE BEST  
OF TIMES.

AND SO DISTRESS CAME TO RURAL AMERICA. THERE WERE FEW WHO DID NOT FEEL  
ITS EFFECT. ~~HELP—OUTSIDE HELP—~~WAS NEEDED. NO LONGER COULD RURAL AMERICA  
HOPE TO PULL ITSELF OUT OF THE QUAGMIRE OF DISTRESS BY ITS BOOTSTRAPS.

THUS CAME INTO EXISTENCE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE  
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH ARE HELPING FARMERS TO FIND THEMSELVES  
AGAIN AND TO BUILD A PROGRAM TO PREVENT A REPEATED LOSS OF LAND AND HUMAN  
RESOURCES. THROUGH THE MEANS OF THIS BRIEF PUBLICATION, WE HOPE TO FAMIL-  
IARIZE THE PUBLIC WITH THE HISTORY OF THE LAND SERVED BY THIS REGIONAL  
OFFICE OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, TOGETHER WITH THE PURPOSES, PLANS  
AND PROJECTS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CORRECT THE MIS-  
TAKES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN HANDLING OUR LANDS, AND THAT A NEW ERA WILL BE  
WRITTEN IN THE RECORDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINIS-  
TRATION SEEKS THE COOPERATION OF EVERYONE IN SOLVING THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT  
STAND IN THE WAY OF A BETTER RURAL LIFE IN AMERICA. IN THE SOLUTION OF  
THESE PROBLEMS RESTS THE SOCIAL AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF OUR  
PEOPLE.

L. H. HAUTER  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

OCT 19 1936





**THE DUST STORM** IT PASSES, LEAVING IN ITS WAKE BROKEN LANDS  
AND DISCOURAGED PEOPLE

## IN THE BEGINNING

THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION WAS DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK ON THE LAND TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN A STANDARD OF LIVING IN KEEPING WITH THE FREE SPIRIT OF AMERICA. WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ESTABLISHED THIS AGENCY ON APRIL 30, 1935, HE SET FORTH THREE MAJOR DUTIES. THESE ARE TO HELP DISTRESSED FARMERS WITH LOANS, TO CARRY OUT PROJECTS FOR THE BETTER USES OF LAND, AND TO HELP FAMILIES RESETTLE ON BETTER FARMS AND IN BETTER HOMES.

THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION WAS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES IN PROTECTION OF DISTRESSED AND LOW-INCOME FARMERS AND IN THE CONSERVING OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE NATION. BECAUSE PROBLEMS HAD BECOME ACUTE, IT HAD TO TAKE STEPS TO COMBAT THEM AS AN EMERGENCY AGENCY, AS WELL AS ONE SEEKING PERMANENT REMEDIES.

IT BECAME NECESSARY, AS COSTS OF GOVERNMENT MOUNTED, TO FIND A WAY TO REMOVE FARM FAMILIES FROM RELIEF ROLLS. IT ALSO WAS RECOGNIZED THAT MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO TAKE THOSE FARM LANDS OUT OF PRODUCTION THAT SHOULD NOT BE IN PRODUCTION, AND USE OF WHICH WAS CAUSING ACUTE DISTRESS, AND PUT THEM TO THEIR BEST ECONOMIC USE. IT SEEMED THAT SUCH STEPS WERE VITAL IF THE COUNTRY WAS TO HAVE A STABLE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY.

RESETTLEMENT LEADERS FELT THAT MANY OF THOSE ON RELIEF WERE VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT, ONCE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, AND UNDER THE PROPER GUIDANCE, THEY WOULD BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING. THEY FELT THAT IT WAS SOUND ECONOMICS TO REESTABLISH THOSE FAMILIES RATHER THAN MAINTAIN THEM ON RELIEF ROLLS, SO THAT THEY COULD BECOME SELF-RESPECTING, STABLE CITIZENS AGAIN.

MANY FACTORS HAD COMBINED TO DISTRESS THE RURAL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. THOUSANDS OF FARM FAMILIES HAD SETTLED ON LAND THAT PROVED UNFIT FOR CROP PRODUCTION AND FAILED TO YIELD THEM A LIVING. THE DEPRESSION AND THE DROUTH REDUCED MANY FARMERS TO EXTREME POVER-





## NEW HOPE

AMBITION AND JOY  
REPLACES FEAR AS RURAL  
AMERICA BECOMES  
REHABILITATED



TY AS FORECLOSURES ROBBED THEM OF THEIR LAND, THEIR LIVESTOCK, THEIR IMPLEMENTS, AND THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

THIS BEING TRUE, HOW CAN THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION REMOVE THIS POVERTY FROM RURAL AMERICA AND RESTORE FARM FAMILIES TO A STATE OF ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY? THAT WAS THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE BEGINNING. SEVERAL METHODS OF ATTACK WERE ADOPTED, AND IN THE INTERVENING MONTHS RAPID PROGRESS HAS BEEN SHOWN ALONG THE VARIOUS LINES IN EVERY SECTION OF THE COUNTRY.

## THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

NO SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES OFFERS A MORE REALISTIC EXAMPLE OF CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE IN A RELATIVELY FEW YEARS THAN THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS, THE AREA EMBRACED IN THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, REGION TWELVE. A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO—A VERY SHORT WHILE AGO AS MEN MEASURE TIME—THIS LAND WAS THE HOME OF SAVAGES, BUFFALOES, AND COYOTES. THEN FOLLOWED THE BUFFALO HUNTERS. THE RED MEN WERE DRIVEN FARTHER WEST. A NEW DAY DAWNED—A DAY OF CATTLE. THAT WAS NEAR THE BIRTH OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. MEN SAID IN THOSE DAYS THAT THIS SEMI-ARID LAND WOULD REMAIN UNINHABITED FOREVER SAVE FOR THOSE WHO GRAZED THE ENDLESS GRASSLANDS. THEY FASTENED ON IT THE NAME OF THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT. BUT THE YEARS PROVED THESE PROPHETS WRONG. THE WHITE MAN DID COME, BRINGING IMPLEMENTS ORIGINATING IN THE NEW INDUSTRIAL AMERICA. MILE ON MILE, THE TRACTOR BROKE THE PRAIRIE. THOUSANDS OF COMBINES HARVESTED THE GRAIN IN A GOLDEN FLOOD. CATTLE, OIL AND WHEAT! PROSPERITY! IT WAS A LAND OF DREAMS COME TRUE. MANY FARMERS PAID FOR THEIR LANDS WITH A SINGLE CROP. IT WAS AN ERA OF SPECULATIVE FARMING WHICH GENERATED ADVENTUROUSNESS. IT LED MANY FARMERS AND SPECULATORS, LURED ON BY HOPES OF BIG PROFITS, TO TAKE CHANCES. IT WAS THIS ERA THAT MARKED THE TRANSITION DOWNWARD OF THE AGRICULTURE OF THE PLAINS. GOOD LANDS WERE FORCED TO SUFFER WITH BAD. SOUND AGRICULTURE WAS DISTURBED BY UNSOUND FARMING.

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GRAZING LANDS, LIKE OTHER LOW-PRODUCING AREAS OF OTHER SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, GAVE WAY TO THE PLOW, AND THEN CAME THE DROUTH WITH THE RESULTANT DUST STORMS. WIND EROSION BECAME THE STALKING SPECTER OF THE REGION, ACCENTUATED BY DROUTH. DISTRESS NATURALLY FOLLOVED IN ITS WAKE. THE AGRICULTURE OF THE SECTION HAD ITS LIMITATIONS, AND MAN'S EFFORTS TO REAP ADDED PROFITS HAD TAXED IT BEYOND ITS CAPACITY TO PERFORM. NATURE REFUSED TO BE A PARTY TO UNWISE POLICIES OF EXPLOITATION.

TO UNDERSTAND FULLY THE PROBLEMS OF THE WHEAT FARMER AND THE TRANSITION THAT IS TAKING PLACE ON THE AVERAGE FARM, IT IS NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE RECORDS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AS WELL AS THE PRESENT. AFTER ALL, THE PLIGHT OF THE AVERAGE FARMER IN REGION TWELVE IS TRACEABLE TO THE SAME SOURCE FROM WHICH CAME THE CHAOS THAT ENVELOPED THE UNIVERSE.

THERE HAVE BEEN DROUTHS IN OTHER YEARS. THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS HAS ALWAYS KNOWN DROUTHS, BUT THEY NEVER HAVE MEANT RUIN.

THE TROUBLE BEGAN IN 1931 WHEN CAR LOADINGS IN THE PANHANDLE-PLAINS AREA ALONE REACHED 63,000,000 BUSHEL, AND WHEAT WAS HEAPED IN PILES ON THE GROUND WHILE RAILROADS SOUGHT EXTRA CARS TO HAUL THE GRAIN TO MARKET. IT WASN'T DROUTH THEN, BUT LOW PRICES. THE 1932 MARKET SHOWED BUT LITTLE IMPROVEMENT, WHILE PRODUCTION WAS CUT TO LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH. STILL THE FARMERS STUCK TO WHEAT. JUST ONE GOOD CROP AND A REASONABLE PRICE WOULD PUT THEM BACK ON THEIR FEET FINANCIALLY. THEY HAD LITTLE OR NO MONEY TO SPEND ON PREPARATION. BY FAR THE GREATER PART OF THE SOIL WAS TURNED ONLY ONCE, THEN SEEDED. SOME OF THE PLANTING WAS IN DUST. THE DROUTH CONTINUED. HIGH WINDS BEGAN BLOWING. THEY INCREASED IN FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY AS WINTER ENDED AND SPRING ADVANCED WITHOUT MOISTURE. MUCH OF THE TOP SOIL WAS LOST DOWN TO THE HARD PAN. THE THISTLES, OR "TUMBLEWEEDS", AIDED THE DESTRUCTIVE WINDS. THE RECORDS OF THESE YEARS FROM 1932 TO THE PRESENT ARE WRITTEN IN



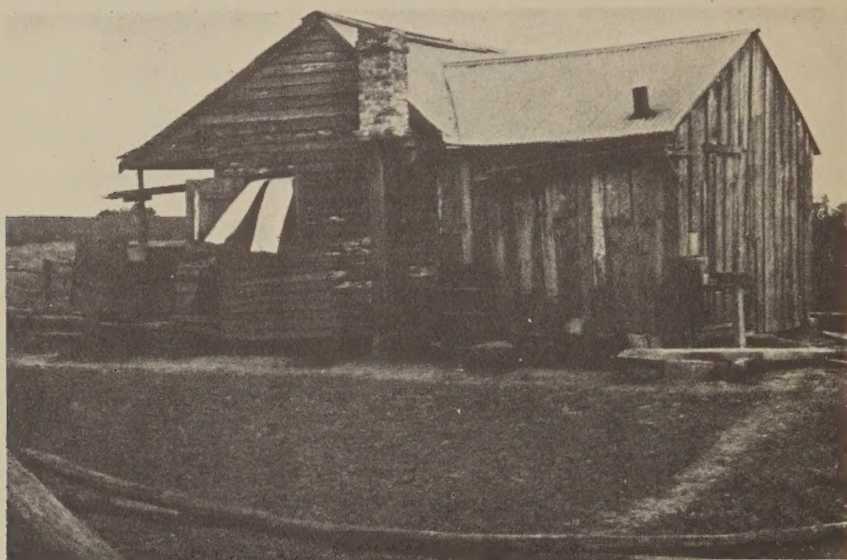
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THE CASE REPORTS OF THIS REGION. THESE RECORDS REVEAL THE GRIMMEST BATTLE FOR EXISTENCE THAT HAS BEEN FOUGHT IN THE WEST SINCE THE EARLY SETTLERS HOLED UP IN DUGOUTS AND STUCK THROUGH THE LEAN YEARS AND GOOD WHILE THEY BATTLED WITH FENCE-CUTTERS AND OUTLAWS, SAND-STORMS AND DROUTHS, INCONVENIENCES AND PRIVATIONS, AND THE EVER-URGENT DESIRE TO "GO BACK." BUT AT THIS TIME THERE IS LITTLE DESIRE TO "GO BACK." GO BACK TO WHAT? OTHER SECTIONS OF THESE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN VISITED WITH SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES. THERE IS NO "GOING BACK." IT IS A BATTLE AS GRIM AS THE RED MAN FOUGHT WHEN HIS EXISTENCE DEPENDED UPON CHASING BUFFALOES ACROSS THE TREELESS GRASSLANDS, AND AS DETERMINED AS THAT OF THE CATTLEMAN WHEN HE DROVE HIS HERDS OF LONGHORNS INTO THE AREA AND ROUTED BOTH THE INDIAN AND THE BUFFALO.

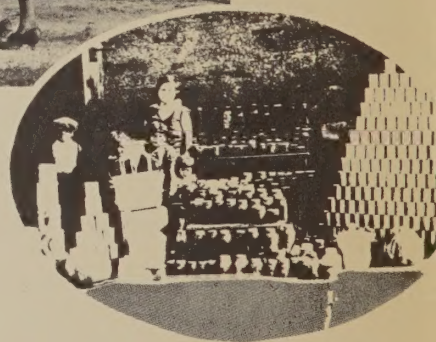
TODAY'S BATTLE IS NOT ENTIRELY WITH THE ELEMENTS. IN HIS HASTE TO PLANT, MAN OFTEN OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT SOME LANDS ARE WHOLLY UNSUITED TO CULTIVATION. SEVERAL DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOIL ARE OFTEN FOUND IN ONE COUNTY. SOME OF THESE SOILS WILL GROW THE FINEST WHEAT IN THE WORLD WITH JUST A LITTLE MOISTURE. OTHER SOILS WILL PRODUCE ABUNDANT ROW CROPS; WHEREAS, STILL OTHER TYPES SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT AS NATURE INTENDED—IN GRASS. BUT THE SOD BEING TURNED UNDER, THESE SOILS SHOULD BE COVERED AGAIN WITH GRASS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY OF THE BIGGER PROBLEMS ARE CONFINED TO THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS AREA, THERE ARE OTHER SECTIONS OF REGION TWELVE, PARTICULARLY A LARGE PORTION OF NEW MEXICO, WHERE MUCH WORK IS TO BE DONE. IN THE WESTERN TWO-THIRDS OF NEW MEXICO, A CRITICAL CONDITION HAS RESULTED BECAUSE IN SOME INSTANCES TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE SETTLED ON LANDS WHICH ARE NOT ENTIRELY SUITED TO INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE. AND WHILE THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT BOTHERED WITH WIND EROSION, AS ARE THOSE IN THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS AREA, THERE IS A VERY DEFINITE NEED FOR LAND USE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS. IT IS THE AIM OF RESETTLEMENT TO LIKEWISE ASSIST PERSONS IN SUCH AREAS AS THOSE RESIDING IN WESTERN NEW MEXICO, TO READJUST



## RESETTLED

ON BETTER LANDS, IN BETTER HOMES,  
THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FARM FAMILIES  
ARE GREETING THE DAWN OF A NEW  
DAY THROUGH MEANS OF THE  
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION





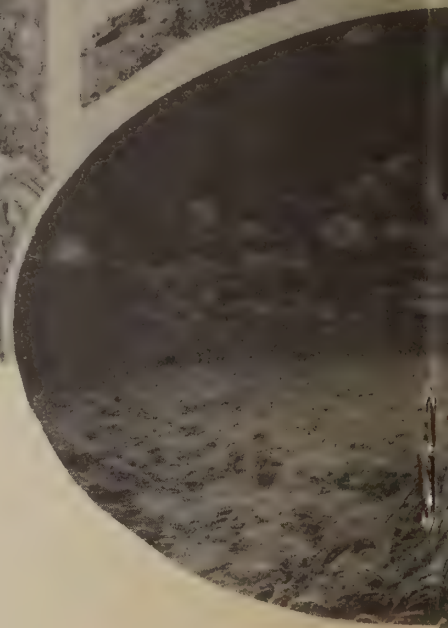
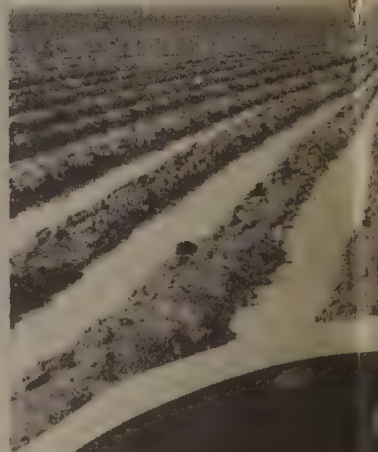
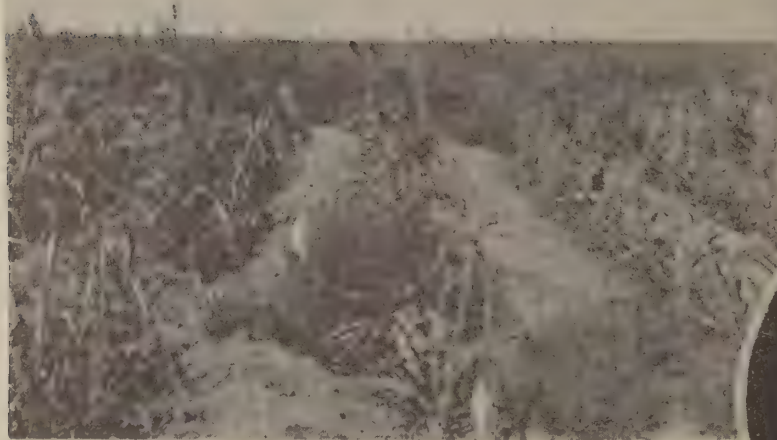
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THEIR OPERATIONS AND HELP THEM REGAIN A GREATER DEGREE OF HAPPINESS AND GENERAL WELFARE.

FROM THE FOREGOING, IT IS EVIDENT MANY FARMERS ARE FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO COPE WITH THEIR PROBLEMS. THEY FOUGHT THE UPHILL FIGHT AS LONG AS THEY COULD. THE ELEMENTS WERE AGAINST THEM. HELP WAS NEEDED, AND HELP CAME IN THE FORM OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION. HENCE THE FOLLOWING IS GIVEN IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION IN REGION TWELVE.

### A COORDINATED PROGRAM

IT WAS RECOGNIZED AT THE OUTSET THAT TO BUILD MOST ADVANTAGEOUSLY A RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM MEANT A COORDINATION OF EFFORTS OF ALL PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES CONCERNED. THESE AGENCIES ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT A CONCERTED EFFORT MUST BE PUT FORTH IF RURAL LIFE IN THIS REGION IS TO BE PLACED ON A HIGH PLANE, ASSURING SECURITY AND AT LEAST SOME COMFORTS TO THOSE LIVING THEREIN. THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE HAS A REGION THAT COVERS A SIMILAR ALTHOUGH NOT AS EXTENSIVE AN AREA, AS RESETTLEMENT. IT HAS A NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONAL PROJECTS SHOWING MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF CONSERVING LAND; THE RESETTLEMENT LAND USE PROJECTS ARE TO SHOW THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO UTILIZE LAND TO ITS NATURAL ADVANTAGE. THE FOREST SERVICE HAS TIMBER RESERVES IN SOME PARTS OF THE REGION, DEMONSTRATING APPROVED METHODS OF REFORESTATION AND OF RANGE CONSERVATION. THE EXTENSION SERVICE IN THE DIFFERENT STATES, THROUGH ITS COUNTY AND HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS, IS RENDERING invaluable SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF RESETTLEMENT. OTHER GROUPS WHICH ARE WORKING WITH THIS ORGANIZATION TOWARD A MUTUAL GOAL, INCLUDE THE NEW AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND EXPERIMENT STATIONS, THE TAYLOR GRAZING ACT, THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES SUCH AS THE WIND EROSION CONSERVATION DIS-



## THE PROBLEM

THE AREA EMBRACED IN REGION TWELVE HAS ALWAYS KNOWN PERIODS OF DROUTH, BUT UNTIL RECENT YEARS THEY NEVER MEANT RUIN. LOW PRICES FOR CATTLE AND CROPS HELPED CREATE THE PROBLEM.





## THE ANSWER

HOWEVER, DESERTS ARE BEING STOPPED IN THEIR MARCH. THESE PICTURES DEPICT SEVERAL STAGES IN RECLAIMING LANDS LAID WASTE BY DROUTH AND HIGH WINDS. THERE IS A WAY OUT - LET'S ALL JOIN IN THE RESCUE !

TRICTS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, AND THE PRESS. WITH SUCH A COMPLEMENT OF TECHNICAL AGENCIES HAVING TRAINED FIELD EMPLOYEES, UNDERSTANDING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND AT THE SAME TIME APPRECIATING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER RELATED AGENCIES, THERE EXISTS A PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH CORRECTIVE MEASURES WHICH WILL GO FAR IN ASSURING A SOUND AND PERMANENT AGRICULTURE THROUGHOUT THIS REGION. COOPERATION OF FARMERS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL IS WHOLLY NECESSARY TO THIS END.

## RURAL REHABILITATION

THE RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE IT IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING LOANS OR GRANTS TO NEARLY A HALF MILLION FARM FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF THE DEPRESSION. IT MAKES REHABILITATION LOANS TO THE MORE RESPONSIBLE OF THOSE FAMILIES WHO QUALIFY FOR SUCH LOANS. REHABILITATION LOANS DRAW FIVE PER CENT INTEREST AND USUALLY RUN FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS. THEY ARE MADE FOR THE PURCHASE OF FARM EQUIPMENT, SEED, PLANTING CROPS, RENT, PURCHASE OF LIVESTOCK, SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, AND FEED. THEY ARE SECURED BY A CHATTEL MORTGAGE ON LIVESTOCK AND CROPS. REHABILITATION LOANS ARE ALSO MADE TO CERTAIN FARM FAMILIES WHO MADE A SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST GOING ON RELIEF AND WHO, LIKE FARMERS IN DISTRESS, HAVE BEEN DENIED CREDIT FROM OTHER LENDING AGENCIES. ALTHOUGH THESE FAMILIES HAVE LITTLE COLLATERAL OF COMMERCIAL VALUE, BESIDES THE EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED AND THE CROPS TO BE GROWN, THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THEIR CHARACTER AND DETERMINATION TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN DESTINY AS GOOD SECURITY FOR A LOAN. SUCH FAMILIES MUST FIRST AGREE TO FARM IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY, PLANNING THE PROPER BALANCE OF COMMERCIAL FEED CROPS, AND MAKING FULL PROVISION FOR THEIR SUBSISTENCE NEEDS. THESE FAMILIES FIND THAT A COW, SOW, CHICKENS, GARDEN AND SIMILAR UNITS WILL PROVE A MAJOR PART OF A SUBSISTENCE LIVING. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT MEN AND WOMEN, TRAINED IN FARM AND HOME MANAGEMENT,



PLANS ARE DRAWN UP FOR EACH FAMILY, BASED ON NEEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPECTIVE FAMILY, AND SUITED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. RESETTLEMENT BELIEVES THERE IS A HAPPY WAY OUT FOR UNFORTUNATE FARMERS WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF THE DEPRESSION. IT SEEKS TO PLACE OPPORTUNITY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE EAGER TO GET AHEAD. RESETTLEMENT ALSO BELIEVES THAT CHARACTER AND DETERMINATION, COUPLED WITH FARMING EXPERIENCE AND A DESIRE TO BE INDEPENDENT, SELF-RESPECTING CITIZENS, ARE RESOURCES OF THE NATION THAT MUST BE RESCUED FROM THE WHIRLPOOLS OF DRIFTING HUMANITY.

## LAND USE PLANNING

THE NEARER THE FARM AND RANCH OPERATIONS OF REGION TWELVE CAN BE ADAPTED TO THE LIMITATIONS SET BY NATURAL RESOURCES, THE GREATER WILL BE THE FACTOR OF STABILITY. COMPLETE INTEGRATION IS PROBABLY AN IMPOSSIBILITY. THIS STATEMENT, HOWEVER, ESTABLISHES A THEORETICAL GOAL THAT GIVES DIRECTION TO THE LAND USE PLANNING STUDIES FOR THE REGION. THE LAND USE PLANNING DIVISION IS ONE OF SEVERAL AGENCIES VITALLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT THAT WILL ACCOMPLISH PURPOSES OF THIS GOAL. THERE ARE COMPARATIVELY FEW ACRES OF LAND IN REGION TWELVE WHICH WOULD NOT MAKE A FAIR RETURN TO THE OPERATOR IF THEY WERE PUT TO THEIR BEST USE. SOME OF THESE LANDS ARE UNABLE TO SUSTAIN A CONTINUOUS AGRICULTURE OR AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE OPERATOR BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO SPECULATIVE MISUSE. PRESENT USE PRACTICES ARE IN MANY CASES RESULTING IN A WANTON WASTE OF THE RESOURCES WITH WHICH THE LAND IS ENDOWED. THERE IS ALSO A TREMENDOUS LOSS OF HUMAN EFFORT THAT IS CHARGEABLE TO THIS SAME ACCOUNT. BEST USE OF THE LAND SHOULD BE MEASURED BY THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE RETURNS COMMENSURATE WITH GOOD PRACTICE. GOOD LAND USE WILL CONSERVE OR IMPROVE, NOT MINE THE ORIGINAL RESOURCES. GRAZING IS OFTEN CONSIDERED A LOWER FORM OF USE THAN CROP PRODUCTION. CONSIDERING THE LOW AVERAGE CROP YIELD AND DAMAGES FROM WIND EROSION AND CERTAIN SOIL TYPES, THERE ARE AREAS IN REGION TWELVE THAT WOULD BE RESTORED TO A HIGHER

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basis if they could be returned to grazing. The various parts of the region are supposed to have similar problems. Actually, variations occur from the extreme of areas needing little, if any help to those which are rapidly becoming a menace to surrounding farms and pasture lands. The Land Use Planning Division is making an extensive research in this region. Answers to many of the perplexing problems should result when the returns from this research have been integrated with the research of other organizations. The Resettlement Administration and other agencies can, then, cooperate to a better advantage with farmers in developing a land use economy that will conserve their natural resources and provide a self-sustaining agriculture.

## RURAL RESETTLEMENT

The Rural Resettlement Division is charged with the responsibility of investigating lands and locations that may be offered or may be indicated by the research of the Land Use Planning Division for the purpose of resettling farm families. The areas so indicated are designated as projects, and while they usually embrace a large acreage, the total lands under projects represent only a small portion of the region. In the development of rural resettlement projects, locations are sought where farm families may be resettled on economically sound farm units. Extreme care must be exercised in selecting such projects. Soil fertility, topography, rainfall, irrigation and drainage (in areas where irrigation is practical), domestic water supply, proximity to highways, railroads and public utility lines are factors to be considered. It is important, also, that educational and social opportunities are present in such communities. Suitable land must be acquired and developed at a cost low enough to enable farmers to support their families and to amortize the capital debt. The Rural Resettlement Division acts as an agent for the farm families to be resettled, and the location, purchase and development, and financing of farms are its responsibilities. As a



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MEANS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THESE PEOPLE, THEY ARE TO BE ASSISTED IN SETTING UP COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS. THE OBJECTIVE OF RURAL RESETTLEMENT IS TO POINT THE WAY TOWARD PERMANENT REHABILITATION OF DISTRESSED FARM FAMILIES BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO SECURE FARMS OF THEIR OWN AND BY GIVING THE SUPERVISION AND THE ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO EFFICIENT OPERATION.

RURAL RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS ARE BROADLY CLASSIFIED IN TWO GROUPS: COMMUNITY TYPE AND INFILTRATION TYPE. IN THE FORMER, COMPARATIVELY LARGE ACREAGES OF LAND ARE ACQUIRED IN ONE COMPACT BODY, AND ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE AND ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIVIDUAL SETTLER. IN THE INFILTRATION TYPE PROJECT, INDIVIDUAL FARMS ARE ACQUIRED OVER QUITE A WIDE AREA, AND THEY NEED NOT BE CONTIGUOUS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE INFILTRATION PROJECTS OFFER THE GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR RESETTLEMENT, BECAUSE LANDS MAY MORE EASILY BE ACQUIRED, AND THE PROBLEM OF MOVING THE FAMILIES ON THE LANDS IS MORE SIMPLE THAN IN THE COMMUNITY TYPE PROJECTS.

IN REGION TWELVE, A PROJECT MAY ALSO BE CLASSIFIED AS OPERATED UNDER IRRIGATION OR UNDER RAINFALL FARMING. WHILE THE RECENT DROUTH HAS EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF IRRIGATION, BOTH PUMP AND GRAVITY, THE RURAL RESETTLEMENT DIVISION HAS NOT LOST SIGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY FOR PROFITABLE FARMING AND SATISFACTORY FARM LIFE ON FARMS WHERE RAINFALL ALONE IS DEPENDED UPON. THE PLAINS, PARTICULARLY THE PANHANDLE-PLAINS OF TEXAS, AFFORD MANY CHANCES FOR SOUND RESETTLEMENT. SO-CALLED DRY FARMING IS ECONOMICALLY SOUND ON GOOD QUALITY LAND IN THOSE AREAS HAVING FROM EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY INCHES OF RAINFALL, PROVIDED APPROVED FARM PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED.

THE RURAL RESETTLEMENT DIVISION HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION A NUMBER OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE ARKANSAS VALLEY, COLORADO, PECOS VALLEY AND RIO GRANDE VALLEY IN NEW MEXICO, AND ON THE HIGH PLAINS WHERE PUMP IRRIGATION MAY BE PRACTICED. RESETTLEMENT OF FARM FAMILIES UP-



THE PROBLEM AREA SUCH SCENES ARE COMMON IN REGION TWELVE



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ON FARMS IN THE RAINFALL BELT, WHERE IRRIGATION IS NOT NECESSARY UPON AN INFILTRATION BASIS, IS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY FOR EFFECTIVE WORK.

IN THE SELECTION OF FAMILIES TO BE RESETTLED, FIRST CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THOSE FARMERS WHOSE LANDS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED UNDER LAND UTILIZATION PROJECTS; SECOND, TO THOSE WHO ARE RECOMMENDED FOR RESETTLEMENT BY THE RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION. OTHER PERSONS WHO HAVE FARM BACKGROUNDS WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF A HOME AND WHO ARE WORTHY ARE ALSO GIVEN CONSIDERATION. CAREFUL STUDY IS GIVEN TO ALL APPLICANTS AND THE CHANCES FOR EACH FARMER'S SUCCESS ARE CAREFULLY APPRAISED. IT IS DESIRED TO RESETTLE ONLY THOSE PEOPLE WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR ABILITIES AND THEIR INITIATIVE, WILL LIKELY SUCCEED. IT IS NOT GOOD POLICY TO PLACE THOSE PERSONS UPON FARMS WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR LIMITATIONS, ARE FORE-DOOMED TO FAILURE.

## COMMUNITY AND COOPERATIVE SERVICES

COVERING THE PLAINS, IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE OTHER DIVISIONS OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND EXTENDING INTO NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO, IS THE COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE DIVISION OF REGION TWELVE.

MORE AND MORE THE ADVANTAGES OF ASSOCIATED AND COMMUNITY BARGAINING ARE BEING EVIDENCED, AND IT HAS BECOME THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIVISION TO COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE IN FURTHERING SUCH ENTERPRISES.

IN THIS REGARD, LOANS MAY BE MADE BY THIS DIVISION TO APPROVED COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS—EITHER THOSE ORGANIZED IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVED COMMUNITY PROJECTS OR THOSE WHICH FURTHER RURAL REHABILITATION OR RELIEF IN STRICKEN AGRICULTURAL AREAS.

THE COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION MUST BE AN ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED OR UNINCORPORATED, WHICH IS ENGAGED OR PROPOSES TO ENGAGE IN BONA FIDE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBERS.

ASSURANCE OF SATISFACTORY MANAGEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISE OR SERVICE MUST BE

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GIVEN, AND THE ENTERPRISE OR SERVICE MUST BE ECONOMICALLY SOUND.

ACCORDINGLY, COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS MAY SECURE REFINANCING OF OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AS WELL AS TO CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS AND OPERATE THEIR ENTERPRISES.

THE COMMUNITY AND COOPERATIVE SERVICE DIVISION COMPOSES A GREAT NUMBER OF RUNGS IN THE LADDER OF REHABILITATION. COOPERATION IS NOT A RECENT DISCOVERY, BEING AS OLD (IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER) AS CIVILIZATION ITSELF. IT IS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT SUCH FACILITIES, AS HAVE BEEN SET UP BY THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, ARE AVAILABLE IN THIS AREA.

## FARM DEBT ADJUSTMENT

ANOTHER FUNCTION OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION IS THAT OF FARM DEBT ADJUSTMENT, IN WHICH DETERMINED EFFORTS ARE MADE BY BRINGING DEBTOR AND CREDITOR TOGETHER WITH A VIEW TO SCALING DOWN OBLIGATIONS TO AN AMOUNT IN KEEPING WITH THE DEBTOR'S ABILITY TO PAY, MAKE LESS DIFFICULT TERMS OF INTEREST RATES, AND EFFECTUATE COMPROMISES THAT ARE GENERALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH PARTIES. IT HAS BEEN THE ENDEAVOR OF RESETTLEMENT TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM AS DEMOCRATIC AS POSSIBLE. COUNTY FARM DEBT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEES, SIMILAR TO THOSE OF REHABILITATION COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVE PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS, LARGELY INITIATE POLICIES. DEBT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEES HAVE ALREADY RENDERED A VITAL SERVICE THROUGH THE NATION BY SAVING FARMERS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, IN SAFE-GUARDING THOUSANDS OF THEM AGAINST FORECLOSURE, AND AT THE SAME TIME PLACING CREDITORS IN A POSITION WHERE THEY CAN SECURE A RETURN ON AND LIQUIDATE THEIR LOAN. FARMERS, WHO ARE CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS REFINANCING PROBLEMS, AND CREDITORS, WHO HAVE UNSOUND LOANS, ARE URGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEIR COUNTY DEBT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE.

## A FERTILE FIELD

THERE IS NO MORE FERTILE FIELD FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL WEALTH, NOTABLY THE SOIL, THAN IN THE VAST AREA EMBRACED IN REGION TWELVE. THE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OF RESETTLE-



MENT IS PLACING EMPHASIS ON THE BEST PRACTICAL USE TO WHICH THESE LANDS ARE SUITED. THIS MEANS, OF COURSE, WHERE RECORDS SHOW RANCH OR GRAZING LANDS WERE PLOWED UP AND CROPPED, AND SUCH CROPPING WAS NOT PROFITABLE AND SOUND, THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING DIRECTED TO TAKE SUCH LANDS OUT OF PRODUCTION AND RETURN THEM TO RANGE. IT SEEMS PROPER TO ASSUME THAT SUCH A COURSE IS SOUND AND MUST BE FOLLOWED IF THE PRESENT PROBLEM IS TO BE SOLVED.

## SEEKING BETTER TILLAGE METHODS

THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, APPRECIATING THE IMPORTANCE OF BETTER TILLAGE METHODS AND IMPROVED FARMING PRACTICES IN COMBATING WIND EROSION AND KINDRED ILLS, IS STRIVING TO ENCOURAGE APPROVED METHODS THROUGH RURAL REHABILITATION SUPERVISORS. WHERE VEGETATIVE COVER HAS BEEN DESTROYED THROUGH OVER-GRAZING OR LACK OF PRECAUTIONARY STEPS, EFFORTS ARE BEING PUT FORTH TO HAVE SUCH AREAS PLANTED TO CROPS TO WHICH THEY ARE BEST SUITED OR REGRASSED FOR RANGE PURPOSES, AFTER IT IS DETERMINED WHICH IS MORE ADVISABLE. CLIENTS ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO PLANT ADAPTED CROPS WHICH LEAVE EROSION-RESISTING RESIDUES, SUCH AS WHEAT, BARLEY, AND RYE AMONG THE WINTER AND SPRING SMALL GRAINS. THIS APPLIES AS WELL TO ROW CROPS WHICH HELP IN CONTROLLING EROSION, SUCH AS THE SORGHUM FAMILY, INCLUDING KAFFIR, HIGERA, MILO, BROOM CORN, SUDAN, ETC. REHABILITATION CLIENTS ARE URGED TO PREPARE PROPER SEED BEDS (THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THERE IS AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF SHALLOW PLOWING THROUGHOUT THE AREA) AND ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN THEIR LANDS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ASSURE MINIMUM WIND AND WATER EROSION. CHISELLING, SUBSOIL PLOWING, TERRACING, CONTOUR LISTING, STRIP-CROPPING AND SIMILAR APPROVED TILLAGE PRACTICES ARE BEING ENCOURAGED WHERE ADVISABLE. BECAUSE OF THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION IN THE AREA, EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY RURAL SUPERVISORS TO ENCOURAGE CLIENTS TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS MAY SEEM NECESSARY TO THIS END.

## NOW AND FOREVER

IS AGRICULTURE, THE BEDROCK OF CIVILIZATION, THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION IN REGION TWELVE? WILL THESE VAST AREAS OF OVER-GRAZED, SEMI-ARID PASTURE LANDS AND CATTLE RANGES WHICH WERE PLOWED UP FOR WHEAT PEVERT TO REAL DESERT, IRRECLAIMABLE AND FOREVER USELESS?

NATIVES OF REGION TWELVE, MANY OF WHOM ARE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF PIONEERS, DO NOT THINK SO. OFFICIALS OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES DO NOT THINK SO. SCIENTISTS HAVE RECORDS TO PROVE THAT SUCH MIGHT COME TO PASS UNLESS SOMETHING COULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY. BUT SOMETHING IS BEING DONE TO RECLAIM THESE VALUABLE LANDS AND VICTORY IS IN SIGHT, THANKS TO THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE, THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ALL OTHER AGENCIES ENGAGED IN THE INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN.

BUT HOW ARE DESERTS BEING HALTED IN THEIR MARCH? HOW IS NATURE BEING APPEASED FOR THE WRONGS BROUGHT AGAINST HER? THE ANSWER IS GRAPHICALLY WRITTEN IN THE DRASTIC CHANGES OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN THIS VAST AREA. FARMERS ARE CONTOURING THEIR GRAIN FIELDS—THROWING UP GREAT EMBANKMENTS OF EARTH TO PROTECT THE PLOWED SOIL FROM THE SCOURING WINDS. THEY ARE PLOWING DEEPLY TO CONSERVE MOISTURE, TURNING THE SOIL OFTEN. THEY ARE SUMMER-FALLOWING THEIR WHEAT LANDS. FOR PLANTING THEY ARE USING ONLY THE CLEANEST SEED, TREATED TO PREVENT DISEASE. THEY ARE TERRACING THEIR LANDS TO PREVENT EROSION BY THE INFREQUENT RAINS, AND TO UTILIZE EVERY DROP OF THE MOISTURE. THEY ARE HEEDING THE WARNING OF AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS AND TAKING THOSE LANDS OUT OF CULTIVATION WHICH SHOULD BE IN GRASS. RANCHERS ARE TREATING THEIR GRASSLANDS. THEY ARE EMULATING JOSEPH OF EGYPT AND ARE STORING CROPS AGAINST THE INEVITABLE YEARS OF LOW YIELDS. SUPPORTING THE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE COWS, SOWS, AND HENS. SKIM MILK GOES TO THE POULTRY YARD AND HOG LOT. FROM THE POULTRY YARD COME BROILERS AND FRYERS FOR THE FAMILY BOARD. MEAT AND EGGS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ARE STORED IN THE CELLAR FOR THE DAY WHEN WINTER COMES. EVEN THE CATTLEMEN WHO CLING SO STRONGLY TO THE TRADITION OF OPEN



## REGION 12

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RANGE ARE JOINING IN THIS NEW ERA OF RURAL AMERICA.

THIS AN IDLE DREAM? FOR SOME IN THIS REGION IT IS AN ACTUALITY. FOR MANY OTHERS IT IS A GOAL TO WHICH THEY ARE PUTTING FORTH THEIR VERY BEST EFFORTS. EVEN THE MOST OPTOMISTIC CAN NOT HOPE FOR AN IDEAL SITUATION HERE OR ANYWHERE, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT A TRANSITION IS UNDER WAY IN REGION TWELVE. THE PEOPLE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNMENT, ARE WALKING HAND IN HAND TOWARD THE DAWN OF ECONOMIC SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE. THE RHYTHM OF BUFFALOES, THE INDIAN, THE TRAPPER AND TRADER, THE CATTLE BARON AND THE SPECULATIVE ONE-CROP WHEAT FARMER SEEMS TO BE MERGING INTO A SWELLING CRESCENDO OF BALANCED FARMING—A LIVE-AT-HOME PROGRAM WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF A FREE AMERICA!

- THE END -



INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS DESIRING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SPEECHES OR PHOTOGRAPHS CONCERNING THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM IN TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO, COLORADO AND KANSAS, ARE ASKED TO WRITE THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION, RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AMARILLO BUILDING, AMARILLO, TEXAS.

COUNTY REHABILITATION SUPERVISORS ARE AVAILABLE AT MOST COUNTY SEATS TO GIVE ASSISTANCE IN REHABILITATION, DEBT ADJUSTMENT, AND COMMUNITY AND COOPERATIVE SERVICES. THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION IS HERE TO SERVE.

